

# **Support House Bill 1527**

## **Complementary and Alternative Health Care Practice Act**

I write in strong support of House Bill 1527, which defines and recognizes the broad range of complementary and alternative health care practices — including acupuncture, herbalism, homeopathy, reflexology, traditional naturopathy, Ayurveda, and many others — as legitimate health care services in the State of Maryland.

Maryland faces a significant shortage of qualified complementary and alternative health care practitioners. As demand for these services continues to grow, the absence of a clear legal framework has left many residents without access to the holistic and integrative care they need and seek.

On a personal level, I cannot imagine maintaining my own health and well-being without the guidance and support of practitioners in these fields. The care I have received through complementary practices has made a meaningful difference in my quality of life in ways that conventional medicine alone has not been able to address.

I want to be clear: I hold a firm understanding that these practices are not a replacement for established medicine, but rather a vital complement to it. They fill gaps in care that are often unaddressed or unavailable within the traditional covered medical system — whether due to cost, access, or the inherent limitations of conventional treatment approaches.

Recognizing and defining these practices under Section 22-101 is a necessary and overdue step toward ensuring that Marylanders have full access to the complete spectrum of health care options available to them.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support this bill.